



---

# LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board**

*Byram, Netcong, Roxbury, Stanhope,  
Morris and Sussex Counties, the State of New Jersey*

77 Main Street Stanhope, NJ 07874

(973) 527-3200

[www.lakemusconetcong.com](http://www.lakemusconetcong.com)

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2021**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Earl Riley, Chairman	Byram	12-31-25
Robert Hathaway, Jr., Vice-Chairman	Netcong	12-31-24
Joseph Keenan, Secretary/ Treasurer	Netcong	12-31-22
Shawn Potillo	Roxbury	12-31-22
Lester Wright	Roxbury	12-31-24
Steven Rattner	Morris County	12-31-22
Rudy Shlesinger	Stanhope	12-31-24
Rosemarie Maio	Stanhope	12-31-22
Vacant	Stanhope	12-31-22
Greg Poff	Sussex County	12-31-22
Vacant (2 Seats)	State of New Jersey	Indefinite

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Canal Society	- Chairman Riley
Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment	- Mr. Wright
Musconetcong Watershed Association	- Mr. Rattner
Audit Committee	- Mr. Keenan
Lake Awareness	- Ms. Maio
Lake Management	- Mr. Hathaway
Operating Budget Committee	- Mr. Keenan

Members of the Board represent Byram, Netcong, Stanhope, Roxbury, the Counties of Morris and Sussex and the State of New Jersey and are appointed by their representative governing body. The number of representatives and the amount of annual membership fees are based on shoreline.

The terms of the Board Members vary according to the ordinances (4-year terms) of each municipality. Resolutions by the County Freeholders include a one-year term and the State appointments are indefinite.

## **LAKE MUSCONETCONG REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD**

The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board was established on January 10, 1990 as an advisory board whose purpose is to recommend to the municipalities of Byram, Netcong, Roxbury and Stanhope and the Counties of Sussex and Morris and the State of New Jersey, methods by which the many problems evident in the Lake Musconetcong Watershed area may be solved.

### **Vision Statement**

The vision of the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board is the complete restoration of the lake for recreation and other uses and to act as its guardian so that future generations may enjoy the use of the lake.

### **Mission Statement**

The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board's mission is to work with the general public, local, state and federal governments in restoring, preserving, protecting and enhancing the environmental conditions of Lake Musconetcong and its surrounding watershed to ensure high environmental quality, increased recreational potential, public awareness and economic vitality. Through educational awareness, the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board hopes to preserve the historic, economic and recreational values, and community pride once enjoyed by the residents of the municipalities it serves, as well as by the general public.

### **Meeting Schedule and Appointments**

The reorganization meeting was held on January 19, 2022. Officers were elected at the reorganization meeting, as shown on the first page of this report.

Regular meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month throughout the year.

The regular meeting place is designated as the Netcong Municipal Building. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Appointment of Personnel & Consultants - Appointments were made by resolution at the reorganization meeting. Ellen Horak was re-appointed as an independent contractor to perform clerical duties deemed necessary by the Board. Marvin Joss was appointed as Qualified Purchasing Agent and Clifford Lundin was appointed to serve as legal counsel for the Board for the year 2022.

Web-Site - The Board's web-site is [www.lakemusconetcong.com](http://www.lakemusconetcong.com)

## **Chairman's Comments**

2022 was a year of highs and lows for the Board. We started with expectations that we would be able to utilize the funds realized from the sale of the AM 2000 to reduce the depth of the biomass on the lake bottom through the use of MD Pellets. Previous test areas in the lake have shown significant positive results utilizing "muck digesting pellets". We signed a contract with Solitude Lake Management to apply the pellets which we would purchase. Enter NJDEP! The assistant commissioner of State Parks, Forest & Historic Sites called a meeting in July with multiple divisions in DEP as well as Mr. Hathaway, Mr. Schindler (Solitude) and myself. After an in-depth discussion the DEP told us that they would not support the use of MD Pellets in the lake. Although there is no specific regulation prohibiting the use of these products the Board decided it is in our best interest to withhold using the product until further discussions can be held.

In May we were made aware that the Board was eligible to apply for funds through the State Clean Lakes funding program. Ten million dollars was available from the State Legislators, two million was earmarked for Lake Hopatcong and Greenwood Lake, the remaining eight million would be awarded to the rest of the lakes in the state. The Board applied for funding for our proposed Probiotic program and replacement equipment for our 21-year-old harvester, shore conveyor and back-hoe. After our discussion with DEP, I requested that the Probiotic portion be removed from the grant application. After several delays in the process in December NJDEP informed us that we were selected as a recipient of \$572,000.00 for the replacement of all lake management equipment (Harvester, trailer, shore conveyor and back-hoe).

Although we had some frustration and setbacks, we ended the year on a positive note. Once again I am thankful for the support of all the Board members and our volunteers for their time dedication and willingness to participate in improving the quality of the lake.

## **Standing Committees**

### **Canal Society**

Chairman Riley served as the chair of committee and kept the Board informed on matters of the Canal Society. There were a number of Canal Days held at the Wharton Canal site and Waterloo Village.

### **Site Plan Review/Stream Encroachment:**

Mr. Wright served as the Board member to oversee all site plan/stream encroachment applications. The Board received several site plan notices and variance notices, and after review it was determined that they did not affect the lake. In 2021, the

Board received notice of a pending application for a D (Use) Variance and Amended Site Plan Approval filed by FJZ Properties LLC for property at 128 Allen Street, Netcong. The applicant was seeking permission to store and maintain buses and to do minor repairs on the buses at the site. There were numerous delays in the hearing process, which carried into 2022. The Board had strong concerns with the application and the work being done at the site. Mr. Wright attended the hearings as the Board's representative. At the request of the Board, the Board's Attorney, Cliff Lundin, attended the hearings and communicated the Board's concerns to the Netcong Land Use Board and pursued a denial of the change of use. The Netcong Land Use Board approved the application for a change of use with some restrictions; however, the approval was more permissive than the Board would have liked.

### **Musconetcong Watershed Association**

Mr. Rattner served as the Board's representative to the Musconetcong Watershed Association ("MWA"). Mr. Rattner kept the Board informed on matters of the MWA. The MWA had their annual film festival again this year. The MWA's efforts last year to get the rest of the Musconetcong River designated as Wild & Scenic was successful in 2022. The MWA set up an historical society type committee with volunteers from municipalities. During the summer of 2022, the MWA kept watch on the water level which, as the USGS metering showed, was at an historically low flow.

### **Lake Management Program**

Mr. Hathaway served as chair of the committee. The lake management committee oversees the weed harvesting operations and herbicide treatment, as well as other lake management issues. Through the efforts of Mr. Hathaway along with members of the Board and our volunteer operators, all necessary maintenance and repairs were done to the equipment. The equipment was placed in the lake and removed from the lake with assistance from the Netcong Police Department, Netcong Department of Public Works and Stanhope Department of Public Works.

The Board entered into a 21-month contract with Solitude Lake Management for a lake-wide herbicide treatment, which treated the milfoil in the lake. The towns were asked to contribute towards treatment of the areas in front of their parks.

The Board also entered into a contract with Solitude Lake Management for the treatment of water chestnut, which was still found in Byram Bay. Since they cannot get the harvester in Byram Bay, they must use herbicide.

The Board contracted with Solitude Lake Management to administer the probiotic treatment in the lake. The Board created a probiotic treatment program using a product

that they had understood did not require a permit. The Board learned through Princeton Hydro that all probiotic treatments were going to be a controlled use by permit from the NJDEP. Neither the Board nor Solitude Lake Management received any formal notice from the NJDEP that the probiotic pellets required a permit. The Board purchased numerous items for the probiotic program including MD pellets, Horiba Water Quality Meter and ten marker buoys. After numerous attempts, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were able to participate in a Zoom call with members of the NJDEP during which they discussed what the Board has pending and what the Board would like to do with the probiotic treatment in the lake. A representative from Solitude Lake Management was also on the Zoom meeting and they were told they cannot use the product in the lake. The Board continued their frustration with their dealings with the NJDEP, noting residents have been putting the same product in lake Musconetcong and other lakes throughout the State of New Jersey; however, the State prohibited the Board from using the same product. The NJDEP did indicate a willingness to move forward on an experiment, but they need time to do research. The Board provided the NJDEP with documentation and data, but to date, the Board has heard nothing further from the State.

With assistance from Princeton Hydro, the Board applied for the Water Quality Restoration Grant and requested \$790,000 for the purchase of a new harvester, a new trailer for the harvester, a new shore conveyor and a new backhoe. Included in the \$790,000 request was \$150,000 dedicated to the probiotic treatment. Since the Board was not permitted to move forward with the probiotic treatment, the grant application was amended and reduced by \$150,000. In December 2022, the Board received notice from the NJDEP that they were approved for a \$572,000 grant. The funds must be used to purchase the items specified on the grant application.

Arrangements were made with Morris County MUA for disposal of the weeds removed from the lake at a cost of \$5.00 per cubic yard. An agreement was made between the Board and Intrepid Hauling & Carting for transportation of the weeds at a cost of \$275.00 per load plus a fuel surcharge of \$40.00.

The Board performed minimal harvesting this year. The lake was in good condition which is the result of the Board's long-term plan. In addition, the substantial ice cover on the lake this year deterred the weed growth.

In 2022 the Board again received no support from the State, either financially or, for the majority of 2022 with an appointed representative. Laura Franek, Superintendent of State Parks, was appointed as the State's representative in December 2022.

The Board received \$2,400 from the Borough of Netcong for administering the goose egg addling program again this year which program enables goose control across the entire waterbody. They found three goose nests; however, there were no eggs in the nests. There were two to three swan nests found and the Board noted the large swan population this year.

The Board again utilized volunteers for this year's weed harvesting program. This year 8 loads were removed with the harvester totaling 134,400 pounds of wet weeds. There was an estimated 122 hours of volunteer time, including 40 hours for maintenance of the equipment. The Board recognized the tremendous amount of time and effort by these dedicated volunteers.

Weed Harvesting Budget: The Board spent approximately \$28,762.00 in management of the lake. Approximately \$1,170.00 was spent on operation of the harvester. The LMRPB utilized funds received from Byram, Netcong, Roxbury, and Stanhope which are apportioned according to percentage of shoreline as well as funding from both Sussex and Morris Counties.

See **Appendix A** for a breakdown of the total costs associated with the 2022 herbicide treatment and harvesting effort.

### Lake Awareness

#### Stanhope Day/Fishing Contest

Stanhope Day and the fishing contest were originally scheduled for June 12, 2022, but due to inclement weather, the date of the events was changed to June 26, 2022. Approximately 25 children participated in the fishing contest. Trophies were awarded to the winners and prizes were given to all participants. Ramsey's again donated prizes for the event. The Morris County Sportsmen Federation again donated \$200 to help cover the cost of the fishing contest. Although the turnout was lower than usual, the fishing contest was a success and enjoyed by all the children who participated. The Board set up a table at Stanhope Day, but due to the low attendance, only stayed about an hour. It is believed the low turnout for the fishing contest and Stanhope Day was due to the change in date.

### Annual Budget

The annual budget for the governmental entities is based on a pro-rated percentage of shoreline by municipality which totals 75% of the requested budget. The remaining 25% of the budget is allocated equally to the two counties and is represented as follows:

	<u>Percent of Shoreline</u>
Byram	03.525%
Netcong	18.675%
Roxbury	20.1 %
Stanhope	32.7 %
Morris County	12.5 %
Sussex County	12.5 %

**The total Budget vs. Actual for 2022 follows:**

Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board Annual Budget FY 2022			VS:	Actual
Member	Adjusted Shoreline %	Anticipated		Actual
Morris County	12.500%	\$ 6,259.38		\$ 6,259.30
Sussex County	12.500%	\$ 6,259.38		\$ 6,259.38
Byram Township	3.525%	\$ 1,765.14		\$ 1,765.14
Netcong Borough	18.675%	\$ 9,351.51		\$ 9,351.51
<i>Netcong Parks Herbicide</i>		\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00
Roxbury Township	20.100%	\$ 10,065.08		\$ 10,065.08
<i>Roxbury Parks Herbicide</i>		\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00
Stanhope Borough	32.700%	\$ 16,374.53		\$ 16,374.53
<i>Stanhope Parks Herbicide</i>		\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00
<b>Shared County and Municipal Contribution</b>		<b>\$ 50,075.00</b>		<b>\$ 50,074.94</b>
<b>Misc Revenue (Egg Addling, Sportsmans Club, Yonnie Guyer)</b>		<b>\$ 6,400.00</b>		<b>\$ 3,350.00</b>
<b>Plus three municipal parks herbicide</b>		<b>\$ 2,300.00</b>		<b>\$ 2,300.00</b>
<b>LMRPB Anticipated Income</b>		<b>\$ 58,775.00</b>		<b>\$ 55,724.94</b>
<b>Operating Budget</b>		<b>Anticipated</b>	<b>VS:</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Clerical		\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,550.00
Education		\$ 500.00		\$ 296.60
Office Expense		\$ 75.00		\$ 21.31
Insurance(Directors & Officers)		\$ 900.00		\$ 889.30
Legal		\$ 2,000.00		\$ 1,942.00
Legal notices		\$ 100.00		\$ 127.10
Postage		\$ 50.00		\$ 60.00
Website		\$ 350.00		\$ -
Miscellaneous		\$ 100.00		\$ 83.97
		<b>\$ 10,075.00</b>		<b>\$ 9,970.28</b>
<b>Lake Management</b>				
Fuel		\$ 1,500.00		\$ 79.61
Weed Transport/Disposal		\$ 6,000.00		\$ 450.00
Equipment Maintenance		\$ 5,000.00		\$ 639.82
General Liability Ins		\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,009.00
Inland Marine Ins		\$ 4,800.00		\$ 1,461.00
Commercial Property Ins		\$ 400.00		\$ 385.00
Volunteer Ins		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Umbrella Coverage		\$ 600.00		\$ 667.00
Weed Control		\$ 20,000.00		\$ 27,593.00
Electric Utility		\$ -		\$ 55.56
New Storage Shed		\$ -		\$ 3,035.31
Purchase new instruments		\$ -		\$ 3,540.50
Grant Application Expense (PH)		\$ -		\$ 2,362.50
Probiotic pellets		\$ -		\$ 15,567.75
Lake Management		<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>		<b>\$ 57,046.05</b>
Plus Operating		<b>\$ 10,075.00</b>		<b>\$ 9,970.28</b>
<b>Expenses shared by municipalities and counties</b>		<b>\$ 50,075.00</b>		<b>\$ 67,016.33</b>
Misc Revenue applied to Weed Control		\$ 2,400.00		\$ -
Plus three municipal Parks Herbicide treatment		\$ 2,300.00		\$ 2,300.00
<b>Total LMRPB Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 54,775.00</b>		<b>\$ 69,316.33</b>

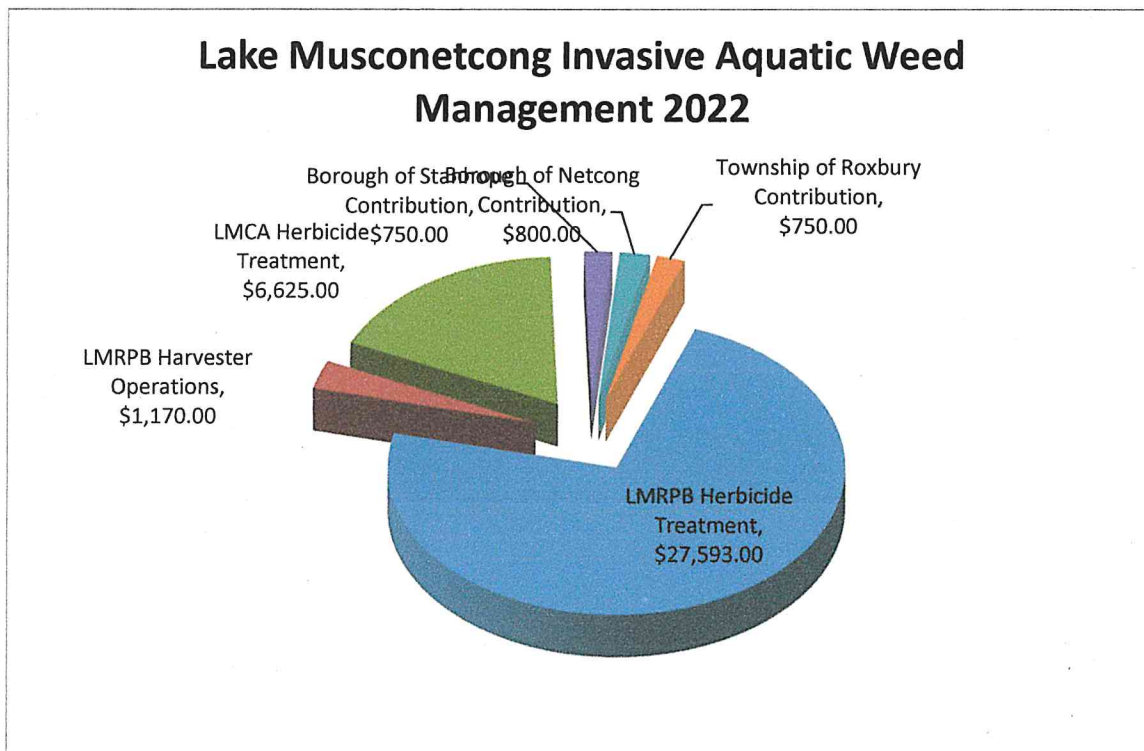


## **Volunteer Hours and Contributions**

The Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board is grateful for the many volunteer hours and in-kind contributions of materials and labor through individuals, organizations and participating governing bodies. During 2022 the Board logged 280 volunteer hours, totaling an in-kind value of \$7,000.00 (\$25 per hour). Since the year 1995, the total volunteer hours logged to date are 35,293 hours.

## Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board Invasive Aquatic Weed Management 2022

Contributer	Amount	Percentage
<b>LMRPB Herbicide Treatment</b>	\$ 27,593.00	73%
<b>LMRPB Harvester Operations</b>	\$ 1,170.00	3%
<b>LMCA Herbicide Treatment</b>	\$ 6,625.00	18%
<b>Borough of Stanhope Contribution</b>	\$ 750.00	2%
<b>Borough of Netcong Contribution</b>	\$ 800.00	2%
<b>Township of Roxbury Contribution</b>	\$ 750.00	2%
	<b>\$ 37,688.00</b>	<b>100%</b>



**2021 Statistics**

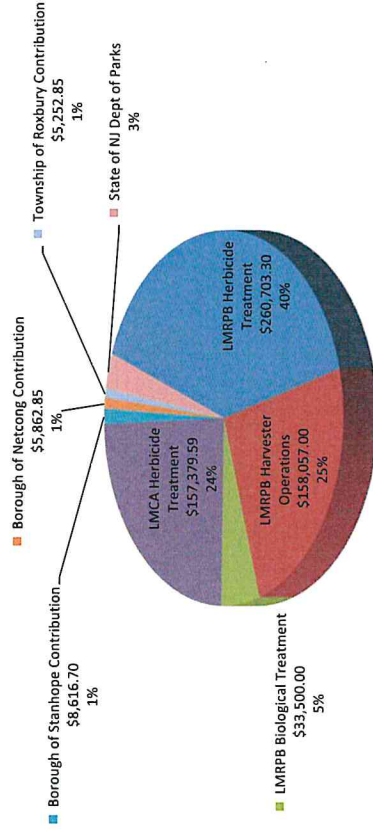
<b>Volunteer Hours (Harvester Only)</b>	122
<b>Harvester Loads Removed</b>	8
<b>Cubic Yards of weed Removed</b>	200
<b>Pounds of weed Removed (wet weight)</b>	134,400
<b>Phosphorus Removed (pounds)</b>	24.01

	Pounds per load	Total pounds of Wet Weed Removed	Drying factor	Pounds of Dry Weed Removed	Phosphorus Content of Dry Weed per pound	Total Pounds of Phosphorus Removed
Harvester Loads	8	16800	0.078	10483.2	0.00229	24.01

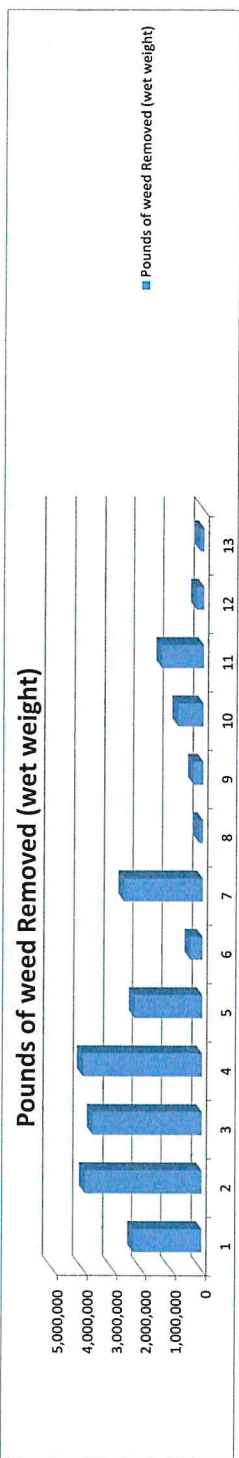
## Lake Musconetcong Invasive Aquatic Weed Management History

Contributor	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	13Yr Total
LMRPPB Herbicide Treatment	\$ 22,890.00	\$ 17,850.00	\$ 14,021.10	\$ 18,445.00	\$ 14,646.20	\$ 26,994.00	\$ 12,464.00	\$ 16,800.00	\$ 27,525.00	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 25,490.00	\$ 29,235.00	\$ 27,593.00	\$ 260,703.30
LMRPPB Harvester Operations	\$ 9,215.00	\$ 12,674.00	\$ 19,119.00	\$ 17,061.00	\$ 13,208.00	\$ 12,432.00	\$ 17,435.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 13,210.00	\$ 13,391.00	\$ 16,557.00	\$ 8,085.00	\$ 1,170.00	\$ 158,057.00
LMRPPB Biological Treatment	\$ 14,055.00	\$ 8,351.00	\$ 9,014.59	\$ 16,712.00	\$ 3,010.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 14,947.00	\$ 14,947.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,500.00
Borough of Stanhope Contribution	\$ 800.00	\$ 786.00	\$ 649.70	\$ 966.00	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 6,625.00	\$ 157,379.59
Borough of Netcong Contribution	\$ 200.00	\$ 786.00	\$ 324.85	\$ 483.00	\$ 583.00	\$ 583.00	\$ 583.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 8,616.70
Township of Roxbury Contribution	\$ 800.00	\$ 786.00	\$ 324.85	\$ 483.00	\$ 583.00	\$ 583.00	\$ 583.00	\$ 360.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 5,862.85
State of NJ Dept of Parks	\$ 400.00	\$ 393.00	\$ 8,040.00	\$ 10,817.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,252.85
	\$ 48,360.00	\$ 41,626.00	\$ 51,494.09	\$ 64,967.00	\$ 33,095.20	\$ 63,730.00	\$ 56,077.00	\$ 38,047.00	\$ 57,232.00	\$ 54,388.00	\$ 57,598.00	\$ 51,620.00	\$ -	\$ 618,234.29

## Lake Musconetcong Invasive Aquatic Weed Management 2010 thru 2022



2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
312	400	400	588	700	190	870	158	100	202	454	102	122	4,598
137	235	220	240	140	36	194	8	20	50	92	15	8	1,395
900	1,470	1,590	1,735	1,012	180	4,134	240	600	1,250	2,069	330	200	15,710
2,301,600	3,948,000	3,696,000	4,032,000	2,277,200	411,900	2,671,210	134,400	325,314	844,200	1,390,368	252,000	134,400	22,418,592
411	705	660	720	407	47	477	24.1	60.02	150.79	248.4	39.6	24.1	3,974



Volunteer Hours (Harvester Only)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Harvester Loads Removed	312	400	400	588	700	190	870	158	100	202	454	102	122	4,598
Cubic Yards of weed Removed	137	235	220	240	140	36	194	8	20	50	92	15	8	1,395
Pounds of weed Removed (wet weight)	900	1,470	1,590	1,735	1,012	180	4,134	240	600	1,250	2,069	330	200	15,710
Phosphorus Removed (pounds)	2,301,600	3,948,000	3,696,000	4,032,000	2,277,200	411,900	2,671,210	134,400	325,314	844,200	1,390,368	252,000	134,400	22,418,592
	411	705	660	720	407	47	477	24.1	60.02	150.79	248.4	39.6	24.1	3,974